THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) To check the adulteration in automobile fuels *viz* Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) by adulterants like Naphtha, Solvent, Raffinate and Slop, the Government has promulgated on 5th June, 2000 the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 and the Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use of Automobiles) Order, 2000 under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Further, the oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Further, to prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping, filter paper test, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are undertaken by the oil companies.

Pending cases under PCR Act, 1955 and Atrocities Act, 1989

1646. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of cases are pending in the courts under PCR Act, 1955 and Atrocities Act, 1989;

(b) whether Government are proposing a separate comprehensive legal aid scheme for SCs/STs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per existing provisions contained in Section 15A(2)(i) of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Section 21(2) (i) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities), Act 1989 legal aid is being provided by the State Government/UT Admns. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.